

District roundup

BOGRA

360 feet long bridge inaugurated

July 14: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed on Saturday said that more than 200 bridges and about 6,000 KM roads were constructed during the last two years of BNP government, reports UNB.

The Minister said this while inaugurating a Bailey-bridge over Khawrajan canal on Lichutala-Bagbari Road, said an official handout Sunday.

The 360-foot long and 10-foot wide bridge was constructed at a cost of about Taka two crore.

State Minister for Finance Majibur Rahman, Helajuzzaman MP, Golam Mohammad Siraj MP and Habibur Rahman MP also spoke on the occasion.

PABNA

Indian held for trespass

July 14: Police arrested an Indian citizen from a house at Sagaria in the town on Saturday on charge of trespass and laundering money, officials said, reports UNB.

He was identified as Ashim Kumar Biswas (30) of Shahpur village in Naldah district.

Acting on an information, police raided the house of Naba Shaha in Godownpara in the area and picked up Ashim who had been staying there illegally for three months, they said.

Police said the accused had sent several lakh taka to India through 'hundi' during this period and they suspected more people involved in the cross-border racket.

SIRAJGANJ

Invigilator suspended

July 14: An invigilator of the ongoing HSC examinations at Tarash College Centre was suspended from his duties for allegedly supplying copies to the examinees on Thursday, reports UNB.

Zaher Uddin, a demonstrator of Tarash College, was caught handed by Jhama Magistrate while he was supplying copies to the students of Geography first-paper examination, officials said.

KHULNA

Husband kills wife

July 14: An angry husband on Saturday slashed his wife's head with a sharp knife as she stood on his way to a second marriage, police said, reports UNB.

The cruelty on Laily Begum took place at village Malot in Paikgacha thana of the district at 7:30 this morning when Joyuddin Gazi smote her on the neck with the knife as she prevented him from going for wedding.

Laily's chopped head dropped on the ground with the single stroke.

Sources said the alleged killer husband told his wife that he was going to marry and asked her not to create any trouble.

But Laily urged him not to go for second marriage, and the trouble occurred as he tried to go out for wedding.

Gazi fled the scene and was hiding till writing of this report at 9 pm.

MYMENSINGH

Publication ceremony

July 14: The publication ceremony of a Bengali book 'Tractor' by Prof Saleq Uddin, Head of the Department, Farm Power and Machinery of Agricultural University was held with much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Ashraf Ali Khan was present as chief guest at the function. He congratulated the endeavour of Prof Saleq to write such a technical book in Bengali.

Ashraf Ali said the book would be of tremendous help for the students, learning higher agricultural sciences, as well as for engineers, agricultural scientists, researchers and extension workers.

Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology of the university Prof R Sarkar underlined the need to compile and publish authentic books on technological subjects like 'Tractor' in Bengali.

Experts said the book will help generate awareness and understanding on farm mechanisation among farming communities and will, thus, pave the way for agricultural mechanisation in the country, said a press release.

MADARIPUR

Heavy downpour damages paddy on 5595 hectares

July 14: Paddy plants on 5,595 hectares of land were damaged during the current season due to heavy downpour, flash flood, hailstorm and other natural calamities, reports UNB.

Of the total, paddy on 1,510 hectares in Sadar, 1,080 hectares in Kalkini, 1,390 hectares in Rajoir and 1,360 hectares in Shibchar thanas were damaged.

Besides, other standing crops on vast areas of land in the district were also damaged due to untimely flood, hailstorm and norwester.

According to official sources, a scheme was taken up to bring 30,000 hectares of land in four thanas under paddy cultivation. But only 25,500 hectares of land, of which 19,707 hectares under HYV and 5,793 under local variety, could be brought under the cultivation due to unfavourable climates.

MAGURA

Dacoits beat, stab 20 bus passengers

July 14: Dacoits beat and stabbed 20 passengers including the driver of a night coach near Ichakhada on Magura-Jhenidah Road, police said on Monday, reports UNB.

They also looted valuables and cash worth about Taka one lakh from the passengers.

Of the injured, driver Irdis Ali, Ayub Ali and Upendra Nath were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits got into the Jessore-bound coach in disguise on July 6 and stopped it at the point at gun point. They beat the passengers mercilessly and decamped with the booty.

Local leaders said dacoity on night coaches is on rise in this route and alleged that law enforcing agencies failed to take any steps to check it in spite of repeated appeals.

COMILLA

Tk 10.93 lakh contraband seized

July 14: Bangladesh Rifles personnel recovered contraband worth about Taka 10,93,460 in three separate raids in Sadar thana last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, a BDR patrol party hauled up a truck at the bordering area in Choudhagram thana on July 4 and seized Indian dry fishes worth Taka 7 lakh, officials said.

Another patrol party of BDR raided a private car at Tetaya village in Sadar thana on the day and seized 346 pieces of Indian sarees worth Taka 3,56,560, officials added.

In another raid on the same day, BDR men recovered 23 pieces of Indian sarees worth Taka 36,900 from Tikkerchar in the town.

The contrabands were deposited with the customs authorities.

BARISAL

30 police camps to be set up

July 14: A total of 30 police camps will be set up in six southern districts under Barisal Division soon, DIG office source said, reports BSS.

According to the source, these camps will be set up in areas where the members of so-called Sharbahara Party are active.

These camps will start functioning within August next. At present there are 20 camps in this range.

LALMONIRHAT

Revenue Dept staff confce held

July 14: A conference of the Revenue Department employees of Lalmonirhat district was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here on July 9, reports BSS.

Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi M Amirul Islam was present at the conference as chief guest while Deputy Commissioner, Lalmonirhat Kazi Farid Ahmed was in the chair.

All subordinates and other employees of the department participated in the conference. Revenue collections in the district in 1992-93 totalled Taka 57.46 lakh out of outstanding of Taka 63.30 lakh.



RAJSHAHI: Prof Anisur Rahman, VC of RU presiding over a meeting of the Bangladesh University Parishad held here on July 8.

Erosion devours 5 unions

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 14: About 90 per cent area in five unions under Islampur thana of the district have been eroded in last five years.

The affected unions are: Kulkandi, Belgacha, Chinduly, Shapdari and Nowrapara. The erosion took a serious turn this year. During the period, innumerable dwelling houses, offices, institutions, business centres and vast tracts of the cultivable lands have been washed away by the river Jamuna rendering nearly 20,000 families homeless.

During the rainy season, the rate of erosion increase alarmingly. The devoured villages are: Barkusha, Khanpara, Mazipara, Zigatola, Harindara, Sardarpara, Brul, Charkalkindi, Barpara, Goalerdoba, Char Belgacha, West Belgacha, Chaherhar, Sindurtali, Shildah, Minerchar, Burularchar, Nandanerpara, Qutubullar Char, Alipara Char, Gilabari, Shapdari, Shishua, Prototpi, Changania, Amtoli, Nowrapara, Bangbari, Kutmarchar, Tagarebar and

Bagbari.

At least 22 villages of those unions were washed away by the erosion of Jamuna and 2000 acres of cropland were eroded.

Official sources here said the erosion in the district took a serious turn following incessant rain over the last few days. Bahadurabad Railway Ferry Ghat and Gohail Batar were also threatened by the erosion.

Jamalpur-Dewanganj road at Kangalkusha point has been threatened by the erosion at river Brahmaputra. This road is only 15 feet away from the eroded areas.

Due to widespread erosion, the number of homeless people continues to increase everyday.

A large size ditch appeared at the Madarganj thana Court Bhaban due to heavy rainfall. As a result, soil around the court building and hospital and staff quarters has started to erode.

During Ershad's regime a total of Taka 25 lakh was sanctioned to build the court build-

ing the residential quarters just adjacent to these office and quarters.

As a result, major portion of the land under Madarganj thana town has already been eroded by the Jamuna.

Different offices of Madarganj thana have been shifted to different places. Many of the permanent buildings are being sold in auction. The main building of Madarganj thana Health Complex is now only 10 feet away from the erosion site.

Water Development Board (WDB) failed to stop the erosion after spending huge amount of money. The board however undertook erosion protection measures at a cost of Taka 180 crore under Flood Action Plan (FAP) in the district for construction of embankment cum-road. Implementation of the plan will start next year, according to official sources.

Meanwhile, the WDB took an emergency plan at a cost of Taka twenty lakh to halt the erosion but no work has yet been started.

Non-registered marriages on rise

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 14: The number of non-registered marriages has been increasing day by day in the rural areas of the district for the past few months.

The financial incapability of bride's parents to pay the required fees for registration and unwillingness of the bride-groom's guardians are the main reasons behind the non-registration of marriages.

At least three hundred non-registered marriages were solemnised in eight thanas of the district during the last two months. It was below two hundred in the corresponding period last year, according to a statistic.

The high demand of dowry despite the existing anti-dowry act is hindering easy performance of marriages all over the district. The poverty stricken families can hardly meet up the

high demands of dowry. As a result, thousands of matured girls all over the district have been left unmarried.

Many marriages are solemnised on commitments of payments of dowry which ultimately are to met.

A glimpse on the family life of the poverty-hit families, it reveals that womenfolk are virtually hostage in the hands of male. The husbands torture their wives due to non-payment of dowry.

Family planning programme is also hampered in the rural areas, due to unrest in family life, it is learnt.

Afforestation plan taken up

The Forest Department has taken up a massive afforestation programme in eight thanas of the district during the current season.

Under the programme, four lakh and thirty thousand plants of different trees have been put on sale to the public at nominal

price through the nurseries of the district.

Besides these, at least 130 hectares of land will be brought under intensive afforestation. Mithapukur, Pirgonj and Badarganj thanas have been selected for this programme where over two lakh tree plants will be sown at the initiative of the Forest Department.

Another 87 thousand tree plants will be planted along both sides of 71 kilometre long feeder road, 8 kilometre embankments and 7 kilometre railway lines in the district.

The Public Health Engineering Department has executed a comprehensive scheme for supplying of pure drinking water in the rural areas of the district during the last fiscal year.

Under the scheme, six hundred and six shallow tubewells have been fielded and another 259 choked-up tubewells were re-sunk in eight thanas of the district.

Bus journey risky in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 14: Bus journey on different routes in Kurigram district has become troublesome. Hundred of passengers travelling everyday on these routes have been facing great difficulties due to absence of proper amenities. The number of accidents has increased in recent days.

Overloading, reckless and rash driving by the drivers have become regular feature and are main causes of accidents.

The associations have little control over these buses and minibuses. The buses are driven at the whims of the drivers causing untold sufferings to the passengers. Particularly, the children and womenfolk. There is none to look after the situation.

It may be mentioned here that most of the buses, minibuses and coaches on these routes are engaged in competition to pick up passengers

standing by the side of the roads without considering the capacity of the vehicles.

It was observed that these overcrowded buses have been plying at maximum speed and are very often involved in serious road mishaps.

The vehicles which emit black smoke are causing serious health hazard to the town dwellers.

Disturbing sounds of horns of the vehicles cause much annoyance. The vehicles plying on the roads are not checked. Many vehicles have no number plates.

Flood hits fish cultivation

The flash flood due to incessant rain has badly affected the fish cultivation in ponds in the district causing huge financial loss to the fish cultivators.

Low lying areas of the nine thanas of the district, particu-

larly the char areas went under 3 to 4 feet water due to heavy rain. As a result, fish of different ponds went out with the flood water.

It was roughly estimated that about 50 lakh fish were lost due to the overflow of their ponds.

Many owners of the ponds who have taken bank loans for pisciculture are passing their days in extreme agony.

Jute output may fall

The jute production is likely to decline in nine thanas of the district this year as growers are reluctant to cultivate it.

According to the sources, being deprived of fair prices during the last few years the farmers are preferring other crops to jute cultivation. Market price of jute is much lower than that of the production cost, they alleged.

Work on 2 FWP projects going on in full swing

BARISAL, July 14: Construction work on two projects in Barisal district under Food for Work Programme is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has been implementing the projects with the financial assistance of World Bank (WB).

Government had sanctioned over 1,001 metric tons of wheat for these projects. The projects include re-excavation of 15 kilometres of canal in Bakerganj thana and construction of 12 kilometres of embankment in Gournadi thana, the source said.

A vast area will be saved from salinity and be brought under irrigation facilities after completion of these projects.

Madrassah examiner, another held

CHITTAGONG, July 14: A madrassah examiner and his accomplice were caught by the local people from a mosque at Mithachhara Bazar in Mirsarai thana while they were allegedly adding marks in the English answer scripts of the Dakhil examinations on Sunday, reports UNB.

The examination on English under the Madrassah Education Board was held on May 15 this year.

The accused were identified as Sadekul Islam, examiner and Lecturer of English of Ahmudia Senior Surat Madrassah of Rajshahi and his accomplice Ershadur Rahman Khan of Hossainpur thana of Kishoreganj district.

The two were handed over to the police who later recovered 65 answer scripts, number sheets and other important papers from their possession.

The Mithachhara Bazar committee, on a tipoff, challenged them while they were busy adding marks in the answer scripts in front of some Dakhil examinees.

The arrested persons, in their statements to the police, said they took Tk 1,000 from each examinee to add marks to their answer scripts.

Help protect global environment

SYLHET, July 14: Finance Minister M Safur Rahman made a clarion call to human community to play their due role to protect the global environment with a view to saving the mankind from a possible catastrophe, reports BSS.

The minister was inaugurating a week-long 'social afforestation orientation course' at Sylhet Sunday, an official handout said Monday.

He said, afforestation is the prime need of the hour as tree is not only economically important to us but also a vital factor in the environment protection.

'Trees maintain ecological balance and humidity by releasing oxygen and excess water content, through their green leaves', he added.

In all 2000 trainees are taking part in the course organised by the Forest Department and the non-governmental organisations based in Sylhet.

After completion of the training the participants will launch a massive tree plantation drive aimed at planting 50 lakh saplings all over the Sylhet district. They will also motivate the people to create social awareness about environmental protection and tree plantation.

The minister urged the participants to make the tree plantation drive in Sylhet a success.

Sufferings of telephone subscribers in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 14: The sufferings of telephone subscribers of Sallakupa telephone exchange are mounting due to negligence of concerned employees since long.

Reports say, there are only one hundred subscribers' capacity board, meaning only one hundred lines are available for the locals. Besides, the exchange is said to be very old which requires immediate replacement. There are as many as 15 pairs of telephone cords or cables out of which only four are operating and the rest 11 are out of order.

In addition, subscribers also complain of dead lines for unknown reasons.

The demand for expansion of telephone connections is also increasing, especially from the business community of the thana.

Destitute women to get Taka 2.74cr loan

RAJBARI, July 14: The government has given loan facilities from Prime Minister's special fund to the less fortunate trained women for creating income generating employment opportunities for them, an official handout said Monday, reports BSS.

An amount of Taka five lakh has been sanctioned for Rajbari district from this fund. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan-ara Begum distributed Taka one lakh 63 thousand among the 70 destitute women at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here on Sunday.

An amount of Taka two crore 74 lakh easy term loan would be distributed throughout the country from the Prime Minister's special fund, the handout said.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Jahan-ara Begum said that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had initiated this welfare oriented programme. She said that the present government had revived the programme so that the destitute women could build their fortune through hard work with government assistance.

The state minister also visited some vocational training projects and mass education programme run under the auspices of Agency for Women Rights Implementation in Bangladesh - Rajbari district branch. The organisation organised about 11 thousand destitute women for making them literate and self-reliant citizens.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Rajbari, the function was attended, among others, by Begum Bani Ashraf, MP.

An UNB report from Magura says: Owners of irrigation shallow tubewells brought out a procession at Salikha thana and held rally Tuesday demanding bank credits on easy terms and other facilities.

Speakers at the rally discussed various problems on irrigation and drainage systems and expressed their concern over the rise in prices of agricultural inputs. The said due to lack of market facilities the farmers are not getting fair prices of their produce while expenditures on irrigation were mounting day by day.

They criticised the government for increasing prices of agricultural inputs including fertilizers and pesticides.

Presided over by Mohammad Zorip Hossain, the rally was also addressed by Md. Altaf Hossain and Tarapada Biswas. They later submitted a memorandum to Salikha Thana Nirbahi Officer.

Another report adds: The monthly meeting of the district co-ordination committee of health, immunisation and development programme was held in Magura on Wednesday.

The meeting, presided over by Acting Civil Surgeon Dr Humayun, was attended by field staff and officials of district health department.

The meeting discussed various programmes on immunisation and vaccination and asked the field workers to work hard to make their programme a success.

Held at the conference room of the Civil Surgeon, the meeting was also addressed by Dr Rezaul Haque, Sushanta Kumar Biswas, Alimuzzaman and Aktaruzzaman.

Govt does not believe in disparity: Oli

SHAHJADPUR (Srajanjan), July 14: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said the government does not differentiate the people for or against or allow any disparity among its development programmes, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Shahjadpur College ground Sunday he said BNP government is a trend-setter in the arena of politics in the country.

Presided over by Jibab Hussain Huru, the meeting was also addressed by members of the parliament Qumrudin Yahia Khan Majlish, Mirza Moraduzzaman and Amanullah Aman, according to a PID handout.

Oli Ahmed said, the people of the country showed political consciousness through giving their verdict for BNP very

rightly at the right time. 'It has now become clear that the politics of BNP has no alternative if the nation wants to march ahead holding the spirit of liberation high', he added.

Welcoming the leaders and workers of different working groups including Rickshaw Sramik Union, Motor Sramik Union, Weavers Union and 13 UP chairmen of Shahjadpur thana who formally joined BNP, the communications minister said, there is no room for self-seeking politicians in BNP as this party always did politics for the people and the country.

He said it was very unfortunate that some political leaders forgetting their past, were trying to confuse people in the name of raising voice against corruption. 'But it is not that easy to mislead people as they can differentiate better between their friends and foes, he added.

Two awarded 10 yrs RI for murder

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 14: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Third Court and the Special Tribunal Judge, Sylhet, Sunil Chandra Paul while passing his judgements found two persons guilty in two separate cases and sentenced them to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 10 years each on separate charges.

One of the prosecution case in brief is that, Rati Lal Roy, a labourer of the Habnagar Tea Garden under Jaintapur thana and his wife Cham Rati had an exchange of hot words over dumping of wastes of jack fruits in the courtyard of their house with their neighbour Nimal Karmakar, who is also a labourer in the same garden recently. At one stage, Rati Lal hit Nimal with a stick badly, causing his instantaneous death. A case in this connection was registered with the police station. The police after holding investigations, submitted chargesheet against the accused Rati Lal Roy and his wife Cham Rati.

However, the court after examining all the records and witnesses, found the main accused Rati Lal guilty and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 10 years and to pay a fine of Taka one thousand in default to which to suffer six months more. The court acquitted the other accused Cham Rati, the wife of Rati Lal of the charge brought against her.

Another report says: The police of Sylhet Kotwali thana has arrested three staff of the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet on charge of misappropriation of Taka 1,84,250 from the government fund recently. The arrested persons are, Humayun Kabir Chowdhury, Accountant, Hifzur Rahman, Cashier and Shariful Islam, Cash Subedar.

According to the case registered in this connection, the accused persons had drawn the said amount from different bank accounts and grabbed it without depositing with the office fund during the last one year. The whole matter came to the notice of the authority while auditing the office accounts at the end of the financial year.

The accused persons had also been put under suspension by the authority following their arrest in connection with the case started against them.

Waterborne diseases in s-dists rampant

From Our Correspondent

Waterborne diseases are rampant in the southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Bogura and Pirojpur. The indifference of Health Department and the Department of Public Health is aggravating the situation.

Earlier, Environment Directorate after examining water sample said that unusual 'coliform' bacteria is prevailing in the water in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Bogura and Pirojpur. This water is not at all safe to drink. According to the

report, more than seventy 'coliform' have been found in 100 mm of water in these districts.

According to source, ratio of 'coliform' was found more in the supply water of different hotels, restaurants and some hospitals where maintenance is very much irregular.



MYMENSING